JIM BANKS
THIRD DISTRICT, INDIANA



ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

> COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-1403

May 3, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Majority Leader U.S. Senate 322 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510 The Honorable Mitch McConnell Republican Leader U.S. Senate 317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

On April 8th, 2021, President Joe Biden nominated long time gun control activist and lobbyist, David Chipman to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). His beliefs and hostile attitude toward the rights of gun owners are well known. Thus, we respectfully ask that you oppose his confirmation.

Throughout his career, David Chipman has made it no secret that he is an enemy of the 2nd Amendment. In October 2018, Chipman argued in favor of subjecting all AR-15s and potentially all semi-automatic rifles to regulation under the National Firearms Act. As a former agent of the ATF, Chipman knows all too well that such action would effectively ban the most popular rifle in America as well as most other items regulated under the National Firearms Act.

Legal firearm ownership and integrity go hand-in-hand, and President Biden should not nominate anyone to lead the ATF who has repeatedly lied to further their own gun control agenda. As recently as 2019, Chipman was trying to mislead the public on the basic facts of firearm ownership. When discussing firearm suppressors, he claimed "The gun does not sound gun-like. It takes the edge out of the tone . . . This is how I would describe it: It makes a gun sort of sound like a nail gun." This is widely known to be false.

When participating in an online 'ask me anything' forum discussion, Chipman published historical falsehoods to empower his advocacy for gun control. For instance, he stated, "At Waco, cult members used two .50 caliber Barretts to shoot down two Texas Air National Guard helicopters. Point, it is true we are fortunate they are not used in crime more often. The victims of drug lords

in Mexico are not so lucky. America plays a role in fueling the violence south of the border." Needless to say, no helicopters were shot down at Waco. On the other hand, the Waco operation—in which Chipman had a role—resulted in the deaths of at least 76 people, including 25 children.

Chipman's confirmation would not only jeopardize the constitutional rights of every legal firearm owner in America, but it would also threaten to reshape the landscape of firearm ownership for generations of Americans to come. If confirmed, David Chipman would use every tool at his disposal to attack American gun owners and we respectfully ask you to oppose any and all action that would advance his confirmation in the Senate.

Sincerely,

JIM BANKS

Member of Congress

Chairman, Republican Study Committee

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MIKE ROGERS

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